

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN EB-07

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DRAFTED BY EB/OF/FFD:RBMCMULLEN:JV

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EA/EAA:SJLITTLEFIELD

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 262455

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, KS

SUBJECT: PL 480 TITLE I

1. DUE TO COMPELLING PRESSURES TO MAINTAIN PL 480 RICE PROGRAMMING WE SEEK PROMPT ROK AGREEMENT ON NEXT RICE PROGRAM. WE HAVE TRANSMITTED NEGOTIATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR 58,000 MT RICE AND PLAN TO TRANSMIT THIRD COUNTRY BILATERAL COUNSULTATIONS CABLE NOVEMBER 6 TO INFORM JAPANESE, THAI AND BURMESE GOVERNMENTS OF PROPOSED TRANS-ACTION. UPON SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF CONSULTATIONS, NOW ESTIMATED TO BE NOVEMBER 14, YOU WILL BE AUTHORIZED BY SEPTTEL TO COMMENCE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. WE RECOGNIZE ROK DESIRE TO LIMIT RICE LEVEL TO 50,000

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MT AND TO TIE AGREEMENT ON RICE TRANSACTION TO OVERALL

AGREEMENT ON LEVEL AND COMPOSITION OF FY-76 PROGRAM.
HOWEVER, DUE TO CONTINUING AND POSSIBLY LENGTHY HIGH LEVEL
INTERAGENCY DELIBERATIONS ON BUDGETARY LEVEL AND SHAPE
OF OVERALL FY-76 PL 480 PROGRAM, WE ARE UNABLE AT THIS
TIME TO MAKE ANY COMMITMENTS ON OVERALL SIZE AND
COMPOSITION OF ROK PROGRAM. FOR TACTICAL REASONS WE
BELIEVE IT ADVISABLE TO APPROACH ROKG INITIALLY WITH RICE
PROGRAM AT 58,000 MT RATHER THAN 50,000 MT TO AVOID
GIVING ROKG MISTAKEN IMPRESSION THAT INITIAL AGREEMENT
WOULD CONCLUDE OUR EXPECTED RICE PROGRAMMING FOR FY-76. KISSINGER

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